

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Paging Coalition Petition for Declaratory Ruling
Regarding Verizon's Proposed Termination of Type 3
Interconnection Service

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) CC Docket No. 01-346
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COMMENTS OF SPRINT CORPORATION

Sprint Corporation hereby files its comments opposing the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by Central Vermont Communications, Inc., Datapage, Inc., Northeast Paging and Rinker's Communications ("Paging Coalition") on December 3, 2001.¹ In its petition, the Paging Coalition asks that the Commission find termination of "Type 3A interconnection" service currently provided by Verizon to the Paging Coalition companies to be unlawful under sections 332 (c) and 201 of the Communications Act and sections 20.11 and 51.315(b) of the Commission's rules. However, as the so-called

¹ See Public Notice, DA 01-2942, rel. Dec. 19, 2001. The Paging Coalition has, since the Petition was filed, been joined by several other paging service providers, including A.V. Lautamus Communications, Incl, Mobile Communications Service, Inc., RAM Technologies, Inc., Schuylkill Mobile Fone, Inc., Telepage Communication Systems, Inc., and T&T Communications, Inc. d/b/a West Virginia Paging. See Supplement to Petition for Declaratory Ruling, CC Docket No. 01-346, filed January 14, 2002.

“Type 3A interconnection” service is in fact not interconnection service at all, but rather a “Reverse Toll Billing” discounted toll billing option, the provisions governing interconnection are inapposite. Reverse Toll Billing is neither necessary for interconnection, nor for the provision of the Paging Coalition’s service to its customers and Verizon’s discontinuance of the service is entirely lawful and within its discretion. The Petition for Declaratory ruling should be denied.

Background

The Paging Coalition comprises CMRS carriers who provide paging service in New England. It has provided such service in the past using a Verizon service that enables Paging Coalition customers to be paged at local rates anywhere in a LATA served by a Paging Coalition member. The Paging Coalition refers to this service as “Type 3A interconnection;” however, it is also known as LATAWide Paging, Wide Area Calling, Type 3A service, Type2/Calling Plan 2, and Reverse Toll Billing. Hereinafter, these Comments will refer to the service as “Reverse Toll Billing.” Verizon has determined that because billing and administration of Reverse Toll Billing will prove unduly burdensome once wireless Local Number Portability goes into effect, effective October 1, 2002, it will terminate Reverse Toll Billing.

In response to this planned discontinuance, the Paging Coalition filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling asking that the Commission find termination of Reverse Toll Billing service currently provided by Verizon to the Paging Coalition companies to be unlawful under various sections of the Commission’s rules governing interconnection.

Discussion

The Paging Coalition's argument against Verizon's discontinuance of Reverse Toll Billing is unfounded. It bases its objection on rules associated with the provision of interconnection service; however, those rules are inapplicable to Reverse Toll Billing because Reverse Toll Billing is merely a discounted toll billing offering, not a form of interconnection.²

Reverse Toll Billing is neither necessary for interconnection nor for the provision of the Paging Coalition's service to its customers, and Sections 332 (c) and 201 of the Communications Act, as well as section 20.11 of the Commission's rules, all governing local exchange carrier interconnection, are inapplicable. As the Commission stated in *TSR Wireless V. US West*: "“wide area calling” [Reverse Toll Billing] services are not necessary for interconnection... Indeed, LECs are not obligated under our rules to provide such services at all.”³ Furthermore, the Paging Coalition's argument that Verizon's discontinuance of Reverse Toll Billing violates section 51.315 (b) governing unbundled network elements (UNEs) is also without merit. As stated above, Reverse Toll Billing is merely a billing option. It is not a form of interconnection and neither constitutes nor comprises UNEs. Therefore, section 51.315(b) is also inapplicable.

² The Paging Coalition also challenges Verizon's assertion that administration and billing of reverse toll billing will be unduly burdensome once wireless Local Number Portability (LNP) goes into effect. Sprint disagrees. Sprint has vehemently opposed implementation of Wireless LNP, but assuming that it is implemented, it certainly would render reverse toll billing unworkable.

³ *TSR Wireless v. US WEST*, 15 FCC Rcd 11166 at 11183-11184 (2000).

Verizon's discontinuance of "Type 3A" Reverse Toll Billing service is entirely lawful and within its discretion. The Petition for Declaratory Ruling should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprint Corporation

By: _____/s/

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